**I. COURSE TITLE:** Ethics in Criminal Justice

**COURSE NUMBER:** 2215 **CATALOG PREFIX:** CJUS

**II. PREREQUISITE(S):** None

**III. CREDIT HOURS: 2** semester  **LECTURE HOURS:** 2

**LABORATORY HOURS:** 0 **OBSERVATION HOURS:** 0

**IV. COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course is an examination of issues of professional and ethical behavior within the criminal justice system. Key issues examined include professional behavior of the individual and the agency. Current topics such as sexual harassment, accreditation and maintenance standards, and community relations are also discussed.

**V. ADOPTED TEXT(S):**

*Justice, Crime, and Ethics* (8th Ed*.)*

By: Braswell, M. C., McCarthy, B. R., McCarthy, B. J.

Taylor and Francis Publishing

ISBN 978-0-323-26227-9

**VI. COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to demonstrate and explain the following learning objectives:

* Reconstruct and explore the basis for modern ethical thought in the criminal justice profession.
* Select and examine the basics of successful criminal justice operations and apply them to everyday scenarios.
* Evaluate ethical information and translate it into a criminal justice context.
* Synthesize an ability to use proven methods, concepts, and theories to develop unique solutions to problems associated with rapidly changing social, economic, and technological situations.
* Assess criminal justice constructs from the ethical point-of-view.
* Test and validate new paradigms regarding the ethical management of criminal justice operations
* Plan a criminal justice ethics policy and program in total.

**VII. COURSE METHODOLOGY:**

Lecture, discussion, journals, case studies, and other methodologies may be utilized as appropriate to the course objectives.

**VIII. GRADING**

Students will be required to complete written exams, quizzes, presentations, and/or homework assignments at the times designated by the course instructor. Late assignments will be considered for half credit.

Grades will be awarded using the following schedule:

A= 90 - 100

B= 80 - 89

C= 70 -79

D= 60 – 69

F = 59 and below – Student will be required to repeat course

Honesty and integrity are major elements in professional behavior and are expected of each criminal justice student. Cheating is an unacceptable behavior within all criminal justice courses. Students having academic difficulties should seek guidance and/or assistance from the instructor, academic advisor, or college counselor.

A student observed or found to be cheating on a test or assignment in any criminal justice course will be given a “zero” on the test or assignment. A written report of the incident, signed by the instructor and the student, will be placed in the student’s file. This notice will remain on file and in effect for the remainder of the student’s enrollment in the criminal justice program. Should a second incident of cheating occur in any criminal justice course, the student will be given a failing grade for the course and will be dismissed from the criminal justice program for one year. The “zero” grade for dishonesty will not be used as the drop grade in a course in which a drop grade option is given.

**IX. COURSE OUTLINE:**

At the beginning of the quarter, instructors will pass out a class schedule that lists all class meetings. The topics indicated below will be covered:

* Evaluate the interface between crime, justice, and ethics.
* Assess ethics as it applies to criminal justice.
* Devise a personal ethical approach to criminal justice.
* Validate the need for ethics in the criminal justice community.
* Compare and contrast ethical constructs.
* Assess peacemaking from an ethical perspective
* Formulate a definition of “fabricated evidence.”
* Reconstruct the legal precedents, which control interviews and interrogations.
* Evaluate the aforementioned processes from the ethical point-of-view.
* Estimate the weight of moral rightness in law enforcement decisions.
* Compare and contrast how the profession influences one’s ethical and moral vision.
* Validate and discuss common moral dilemmas
* Critique and discuss the role utilitarianism plays in police ethics.
* Formulate a definition of “collective responsibility.”
* Assess the ethical and unethical use of force.
* Validate the essentials of the “harmless error” doctrine.
* Test the elements of courtroom and forensic misconduct.
* Devise a working definition of prosecutorial misconduct.
* Appraise and debate the true purpose of punishment.
* Validate the essentials of the “harmless error” doctrine.
* Devise a working definition of prosecutorial misconduct.
* Appraise and debate the true purpose of punishment.
* Compare and contrast utilitarianism and equity in sentencing consideration.
* Critique and debate contemporary ethical considerations in sentencing.
* Compare and contrast (and define) restorative and social justice.
* Assess the challenges associated with creating a meaningful community dialogue.
* Measure and discuss the various duties associated with a commitment to the common good.
* Assess the impact of punishment on society and the CJ professional.
* Critique punishment control.
* Measure and study various life-improvement concepts.
* Assemble and analyze information on chain gangs. Are they moral?
* Evaluate the question of prison victimization.
* Critique the challenges associated with elderly inmate management.
* Plan for the ethical treatment of female inmates.
* Design viable methodologies for assessing blame correctly.
* Compare and contrast viewpoints on the proper prison environment.

**Sample Course Outline\***

**Ethics in Criminal Justice**

Week 1 Chapter 1: Ethics, Crime and Justice: An Introductory Note to Students

Chapter 2: Utilitarian and Deontological Approaches to Criminal Justice Ethics

Week 2 Chapter 3: Peacemaking, Justice and Ethics

Week 3 Exam Chapters 1, 2, 3

Chapter 4: How Police Officers Learn Ethics

Week 4 Chapter 5: The Ethics of Deceptive Interrogation

Chapter 6: Ethical Dilemmas in Police Work

Week 5 Chapter 7: Police Ethics, Legal Proselytism, and the Social Order: Paving the Path to Misconduct

Week 6 Homework Assignment 1 Due

Exam on Chapters 4,5,6,7

Chapter 8: Whatever Happened to Atticus Finch?

Week 7 Chapter 9: Prosecutor Misconduct

Chapter 10 Criminal Sentencing: Ethical Issues and the Problems of Reform

Week 8 Chapter 11: Crime and Punishment: Punishment Philosophies and Ethical Dilemmas

Chapter 12: To Die or Not to Die: Morality, Ethics and the Death Penalty

Week 9 Homework Assignment 2 Due

Exam on Chapters 8, 9,10,11,12

Chapter 13: Ethical Issues in Probation, Parole, and Community Corrections

Week 10 Chapter 14: Restorative Justice and the Peacemaking Ethic

Chapter 15: Keeping an Eye on the Keeper: Prison Corruptions and Its Control

Week 11 Chapter 16: Ethics and Prison: Selected Issues

Week 12 Homework Assignment 3 Due

Exam on Chapter 13, 14, 15, 16

Week 13 Chapter 17: Crime and Justice Myths

Chapter 18: The Ford Pinto Case and Beyond: Assessing Blame

Research Paper Due

Week 14 Chapter 19: Ethics and Criminal Justice Research

Chapter 20: The Canary’s Song: Guantanamo and the War on Terrorism

Week 15 Chapter 21: Criminal Justice: An Ethic for the Future

Exam Chapters 17, 18, 19, 20, 21

Week 16 FINAL EXAM (Comprehensive)

\*Instructor reserves the right to organize work to meet the objectives of the course.

**X. OTHER REQUIRED TEXTS, SOFTWARE, AND MATERIALS:**

If taken online, must have access to a computer and software meeting the current requirements listed in the Online Courses section at www.sscc.edu

1. **EVALUATION:**

Research Paper: Students will be required to submit an 1,600 to 2,400 word research paper at the end of class the last class of week 13. This research paper is designed to focus thought on a particular ethical issue within the criminal justice system. Students should scan the Internet, newspapers, criminal justice forums, evening news, current criminal justice professionals, etc., to find an area of particular interest. Students must receive the instructor’s approval of their topic before beginning. Submit your topic by the end of week 3

There will be five 100-point examinations including a comprehensive final exam. All exams may contain material from earlier in the course/program. Students are expected to achieve a passing score of 70 on four of the exams. The exam with the lowest score will not be counted toward the final grade. MAKE UP EXAMS WILL NOT BE PROVIDED. The research paper must be of original content by each student. Students are expected to achieve a passing score of 70 on the research assignment.

Final Grade Calculation:

Measuring Tool Number Required Maximum Points

Exams 4 @ 100 points each 400

Research Paper 1 @ 100 points 100

Home Work Assignments 3 @ 30 points each 90

Attendance and

Class Participation 10

600

Grading Scale:

600 – 540 = A

539 – 480 = B

479 – 420 = C

419 – 360 = D

359 – 0 = F Must retake course

**XII. SPECIFIC MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS:**

Student Responsibilities:

To meet the objectives of the course, students must attend all scheduled classes. At the beginning of the quarter, instructors will pass out a class schedule that lists all class meetings. If a student must miss a class due to extenuating circumstances, then the student is expected to call and inform the instructor by either talking with the instructor or leaving a message should the instructor not be available.

Students will be allowed two class absences. Unexcused absences over two times will result in a drop of one letter grade from the final grade, i.e. the third absence would reduce a final grade of “A” to a “B.” Two instances of significant tardiness or leaving early will be considered to be equivalent to an absence for purposes of this calculation.

Specific login and activity requirements will be indicated in the initial instructions for any online sections.

Note: Work submitted in this class may be seen by others. Others may see your work when being distributed, during group project work, or if it is chosen for demonstration purposes. Other instructors may also see your work during the evaluation/feedback process. There is also a possibility that your papers may be submitted electronically to other entities to determine if content is original and references are cited appropriately.

Need for assistance: If you have any condition or situation which will make it difficult for you to carry out the work as outlined, please notify the instructor as soon as possible. Students with disabilities may contact the Disabilities Service Office, Central Campus at 800-628-7722 or 937-393-3431.

Instructor’s Responsibilities:

The instructor will enhance and expand the meaning and application of the subject matter covered throughout the course. At the beginning of each quarter, the instructor will distribute syllabi listing all class sessions and course requirements. The instructor will facilitate class discussion and be available to students who need additional educational assistance

**XIII.** **OTHER INFORMATION:**

**Classroom courtesy and decorum**

Old –fashioned courtesy and mutual respect are the order of the day. Rude behavior of any sort will not be tolerated. It is especially important that there be no disruptions that hinder the learning process during class. Such disruptions include, but are not limited to sleeping, eating, listening to iPods, talking and or text messaging on cell phone or other device, using wireless internet connections not related to the subject matter being covered in the class room, reading newspapers, or other unrelated materials during lectures, coming late, leaving early, etc. If you have a need to engage in any of the aforementioned activities, kindly do it somewhere other than this classroom. If you engage in any of the aforementioned activates the instructor has the authority to remove you from the classroom and remove you from the class list.

**Cheating**

STATEMENT OF ACADEMIC HONESTY

(Southern State Community College Catalog 2009-2011, pp.53-56)

Southern State Community College is committed to providing educational opportunities that promote academic, professional and personal growth in students. To these ends, all members of the college are expected to uphold the highest academic and ethical stands.

Types of Academic Misconduct

1. Any unauthorized use of material (books, notes, of any kind, and so forth) during an examination, test, or quiz.
2. Copying from another student’s work, permitting one’s work to be copied during an examination, test, or quiz.
3. Unauthorized use of equipment (computers, calculators, or any type of educational or laboratory equipment).
4. Permitting a person to pose in one’s place during an examination, test, quiz, or posing as another person during an examination, test, quiz.
5. Altering an examination, test, quiz, or any other type of evaluated work in an effort to have the work re-evaluated for higher grade.
6. Plagiarizing or permitting one’s work to be plagiarized.
7. Using unauthorized or improper methods to determine in advance the contents of an examination, rest, or quiz.
8. Unauthorized use of computer software during an examination, tests, or quiz.
9. Submitting as one’s own a work of art, a speech, or oral report, a musical composition, a computer program, a laboratory project or any other creation done by another person.

Plagiarism Defined

Plagiarism can be defined as copying someone else’s words or ideas and passing it of as your own. This includes copying material from the World Wide Web, the Internet, books, videos, and all copyrighted material without express permission and documentation.

Possible Sanctions for Academic Misconduct

By an instructor:

Instructors must state possible options at the beginning of a quarter what sanctions they will apply to cases of academic misconduct. Instructors may choose any of the following possible sanctions:

“F” for an individual examination, test, quiz, or evaluated project.

“F” for the course.

Refer the case to the Academic Appeals Committee.